

THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS

ATLAS

IS HE LEGEND OR MAN ?

1st ISSUE SPECIAL

25¢
NO. 1
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32413

INTRODUCING

ATLAS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



1st
DC
ISSUE

THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS!
~AND THE MIGHTIEST OF THEM ALL WAS~

ATLAS

THE GREAT!



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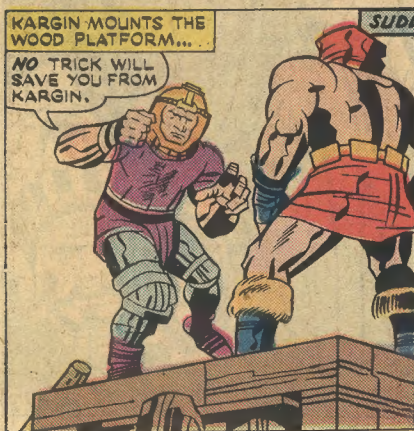
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THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MAN WAS
RISING OUT OF BARBARISM...
THERE WERE CITIES OF GREAT WEALTH
AND POWER... LIKE *HYSSA*, THE PLACE
OF THE WINGED LIZARD...

CRACK! **CRACK!**

BEHOLD
THE MIGHT OF
ATLAS!!
THE GREATEST
OF MORTALS!!

SEE! HIS
ARMS CRUSH
THE STONES
LIKE BISCUITS!

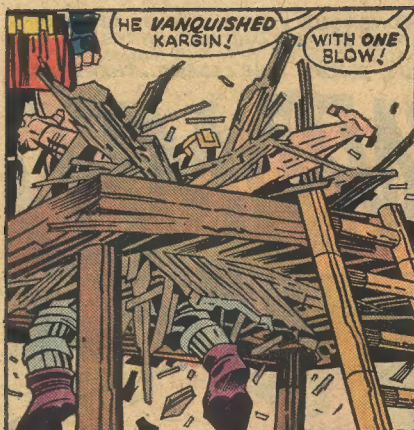


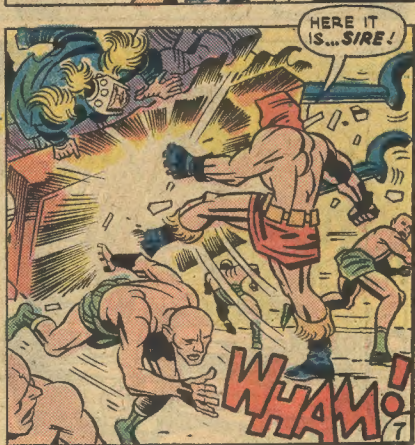
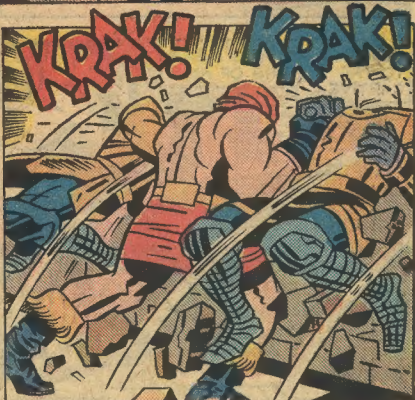
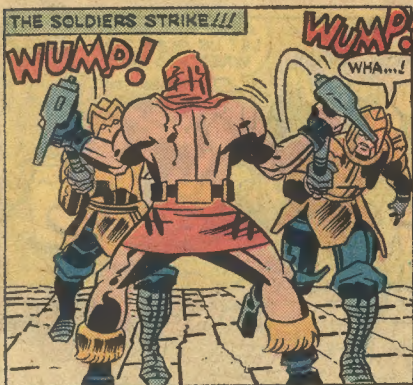
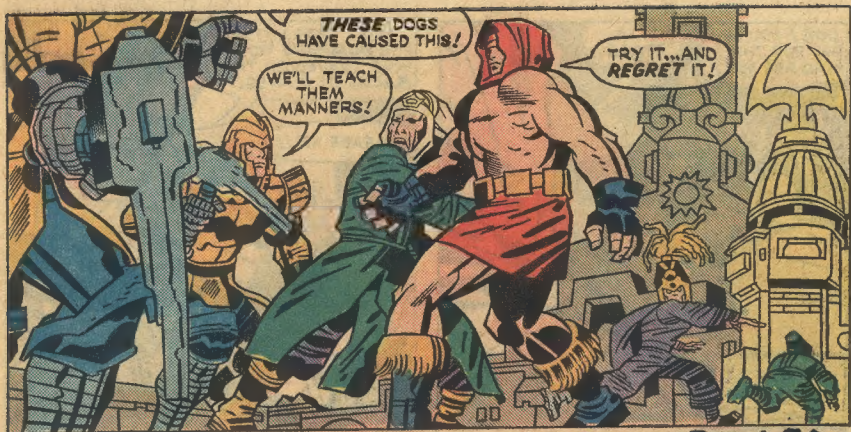
IT WAS A TIME WHEN MEN'S EYES BEHELD WONDROUS SIGHTS! /...WHEN TONGUES
SPOKE OF MIGHTY DEEDS....AND MORTALS BECAME UNDYING MYTHS....FOR
THEY LIVED WITH STRANGE MYSTERIES, AND CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE MAMMOTH TER-
RORS THAT SURVIVED THE BYGONE AGES....BUT, BEFORE THIS LEGEND...THERE WAS

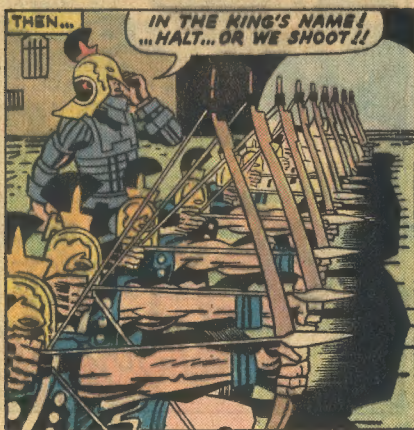
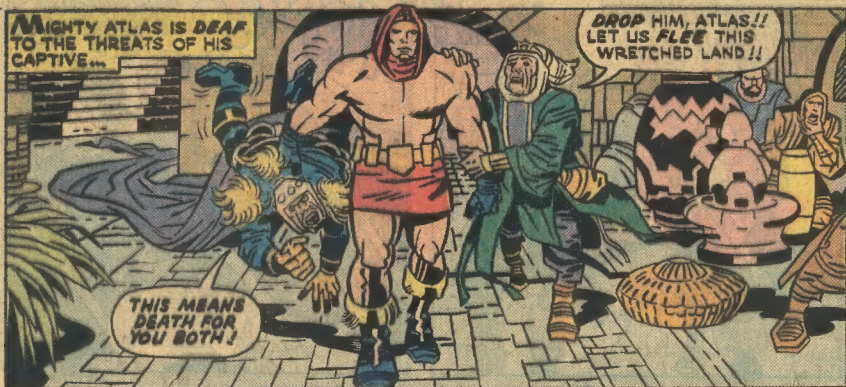
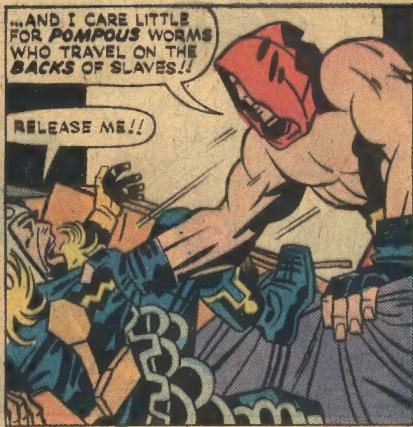
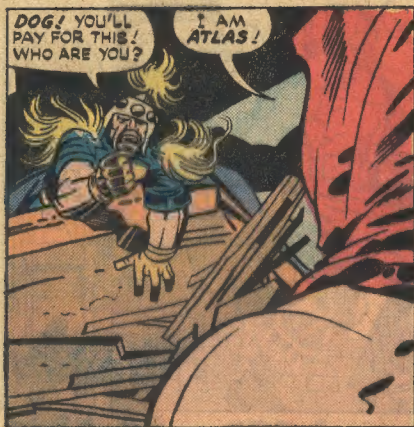
ATLAS THE UNTAMED



CHAPTER
TWO







AT THAT MOMENT, A VOICE INTERRUPTS THE STAND-OFF....IT'S A LOW, REPTILIAN HISS OF A SOUND THAT JOLTS ATLAS.

WHAT KIND OF KNAVE'S WORK IS THIS??

THAT VOICE...! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE...!

ATLAS TURNS TO THE SOURCE OF THE SOUND....HE KNOWS THAT YEARS OF **ENDLESS** SEARCHING FOR ITS OWNER ARE ABOUT TO END...

THE FACE!! ATLAS SEES THE FACE!! ...AND TIME SUDDENLY RACES MADLY BACK TO THE PAST!!

THERE WAS ATLAS, THE **CHILD**...HIDDEN BY HIS PARENTS IN A CAVE DURING A MOMENT OF **GREAT DANGER**!

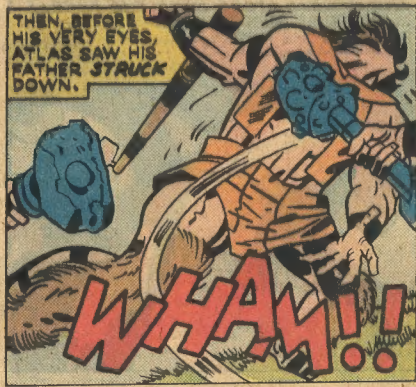
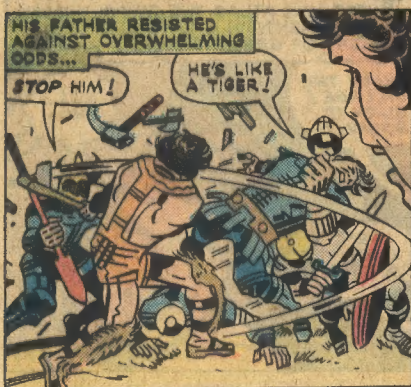
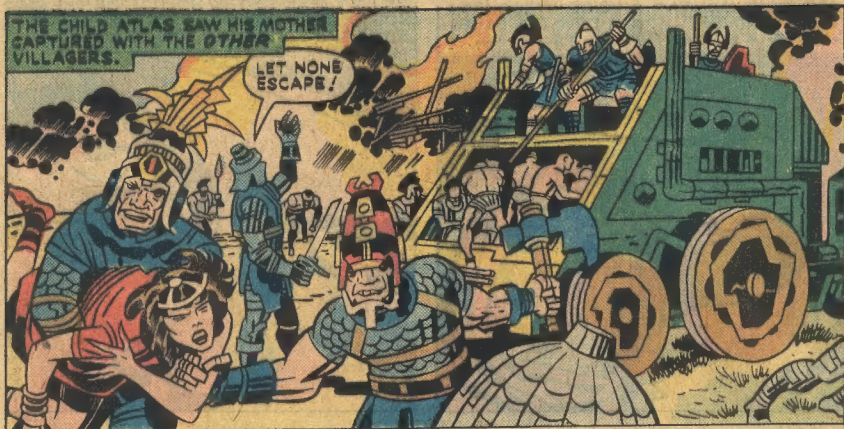
BURN THE VILLAGE!
BURN IT DOWN!!

NO!... NO!...

WE OBEY, MASTER!

THE SLAVERS SWOOPED DOWN LIKE A **TERRIBLE SCOURGE**!!

THIS WILL DRIVE OUR PREY FROM COVER.



SUDDENLY STARING DOWN AT A FRIGHTENED CHILD, WAS **THE FACE** THAT WOULD **CHANGE** ITS DESTINY....IT WAS THE FACE OF A HUMAN LIZARD....A CRUEL REPLICA OF THE CREST UPON ITS HELMET....THE CHILD, ATLAS, WOULD **NEVER** FORGET IT....THAT FACE WOULD MAKE HIM AN ETERNAL

AVENGER!

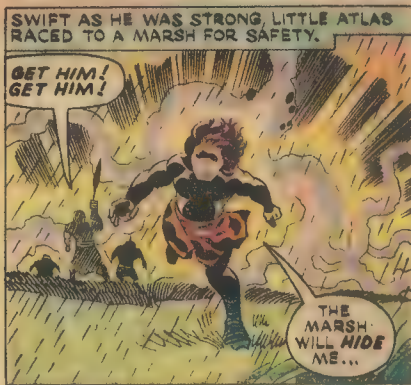
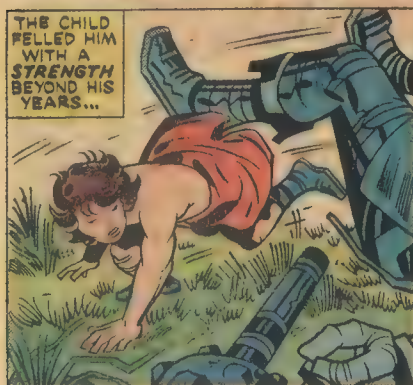
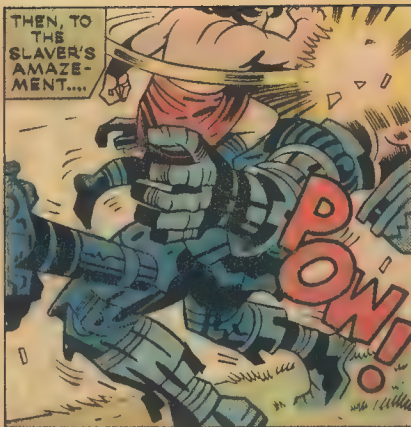
CHAPTER
THREE

LET
ME
GO!

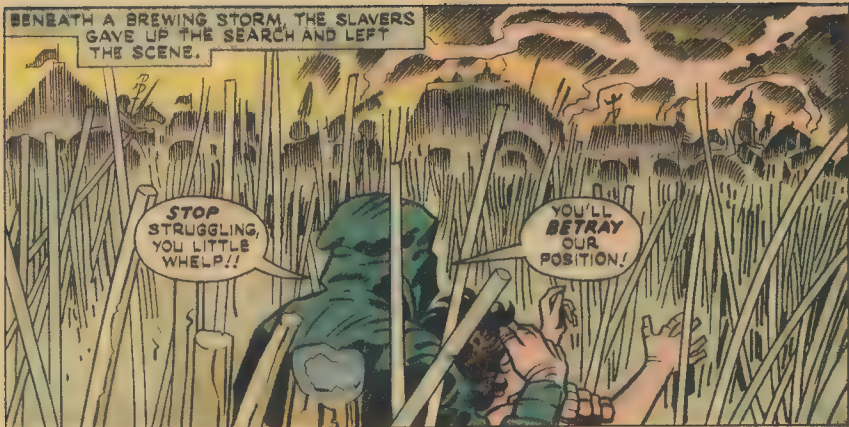
YOU'LL
MAKE A
FIT SLAVE
ONE DAY,
CUB!!



CONTINUED ON 54P PAGE FOLLOWING



BENEATH A BREWING STORM, THE SLAVERS GAVE UP THE SEARCH AND LEFT THE SCENE.



STOP
STRUGGLING,
YOU LITTLE
WHELP!!

YOU'LL
BETRAY
OUR
POSITION!

THE LAST OF THEM ARE
ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT.
I'LL SOON LET YOU GO.

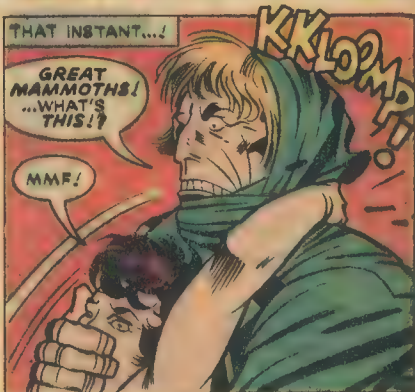


MMPH!
MMPH!

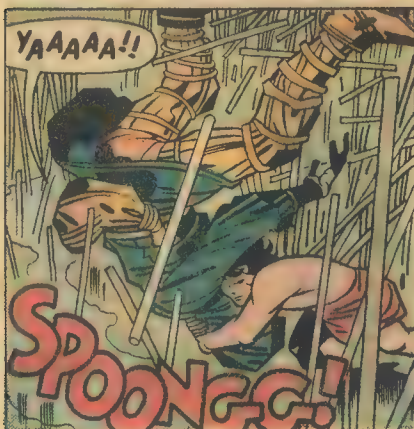
THAT INSTANT...!

GREAT
MAMMOTHS!
...WHAT'S
THIS?!

MME!



KKLOOM!



YAAAAA!!

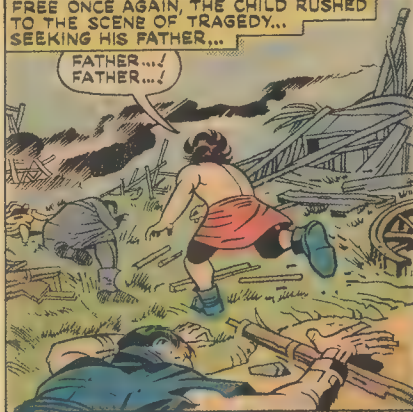
SPOONGG!!



Y-YOU
LITTLE
BEAST!

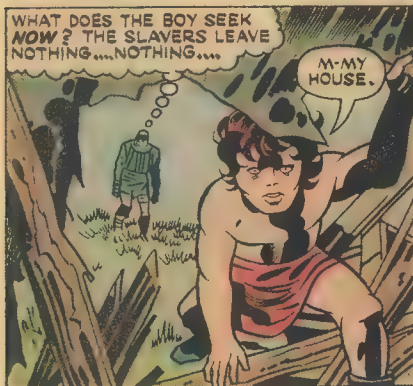
FREE ONCE AGAIN, THE CHILD RUSHED
TO THE SCENE OF TRAGEDY...
SEEKING HIS FATHER...

FATHER...!
FATHER...!



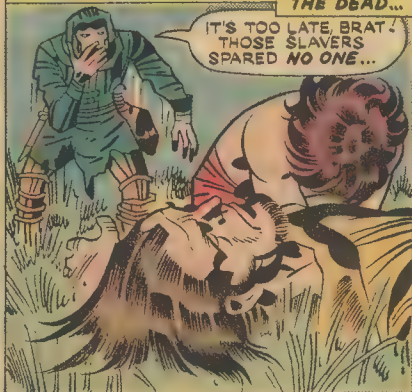
WHAT DOES THE BOY SEEK
NOW? THE SLAVERS LEAVE
NOTHING...NOTHING...

M-MY
HOUSE.



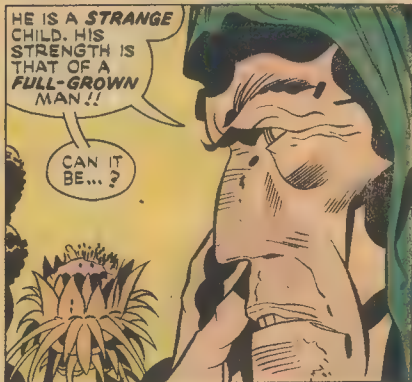
...AND THEN HE FINDS HIS FATHER... **AMONG
THE DEAD...**

IT'S TOO LATE, BRAT!
THOSE SLAVERS
SPARED **NO ONE...**



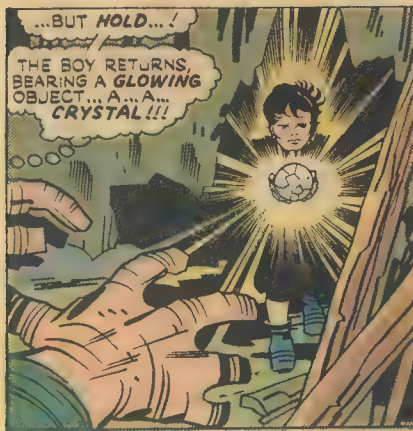
HE IS A **STRANGE**
CHILD. HIS
STRENGTH IS
THAT OF A
FULL-GROWN
MAN!!

CAN IT
BE...?



...BUT HOLD...!

THE BOY RETURNS,
BEARING A **GLOWING**
OBJECT... A... A...
CRYSTAL!!!



THE CRYSTAL POSSESSES A **THOUSAND**
FACETS OF STABBING, MYSTIC LIGHT.

FORGIVE THIS **POOR** TRAVELER,
BOY... LITTLE DID I REALIZE
WHO YOUR
PEOPLE
WERE.

GO
AWAY!



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

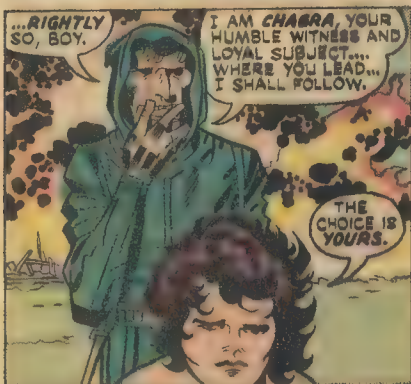
YOUR PEOPLE CAME FROM THE
CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN...I KNOW
THIS NOW FOR TRUTH!



...RIGHTLY
SO, BOY.

I AM CHAGRA, YOUR
HUMBLE WITNESS AND
LOYAL SUBJECT...
WHERE YOU LEAD...
I SHALL FOLLOW.

THE
CHOICE IS
YOURS.



EVEN INTO
MANHOOD
...WHERE
VENGEANCE
HARDENED
AND
LIVED.



...AND IT IS SAID THAT THE
LEADER OF YOUR PEOPLE
BEARS A PIECE OF THAT
MOUNTAIN...AND MUST PASS
IT ON...WHEN HE DIES.

I AM LEADER
...NOW!!



CHAGRA FOLLOWED
THE BOY, EVEN AS
THE YEARS PASSED
...EVEN AS ATLAS
GREW LARGER
...STRONGER.



THE TWO SHARED TIMES OF GREAT
HARDSHIP AND DANGER...

LOOK OUT!
...A GREAT
BEAST!!

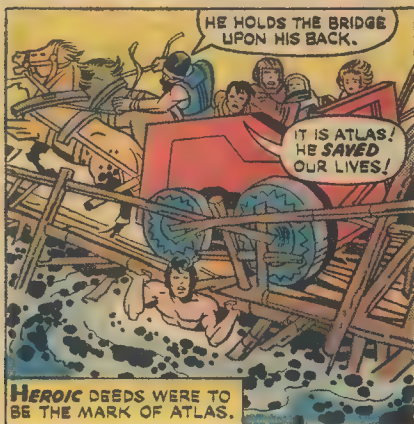
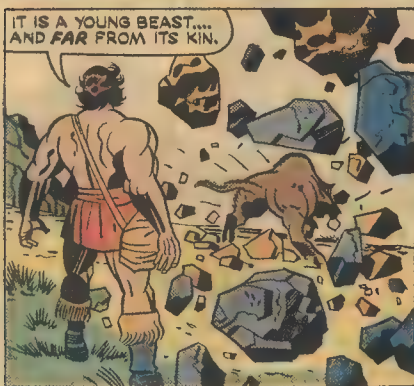
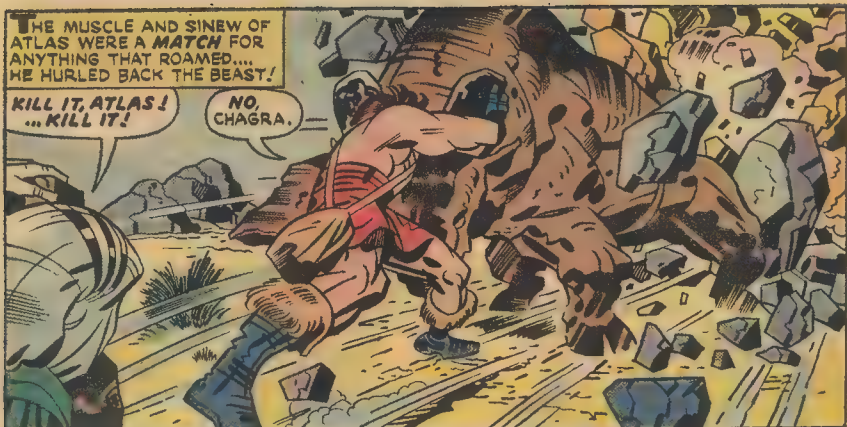


IT WAS THE **BEGINNING** OF A GREAT DESTINY....IT WAS THE SHAPING OF A GIANT
FIGURE WHOSE SHADOW WOULD FALL ACROSS **ALL** OF MANKIND....AND, ONE DAY,
AS THE WORLD GREW OLDER, HIS NAME WOULD **STILL** LIVE WHENEVER MEN SPOKE OF
AWESOME DEEDS....YET, THE LIVING ATLAS SOUGHT ONLY THE ROAD WHICH LED TO A

HUMAN LIZARD!

CHAPTER
FOUR

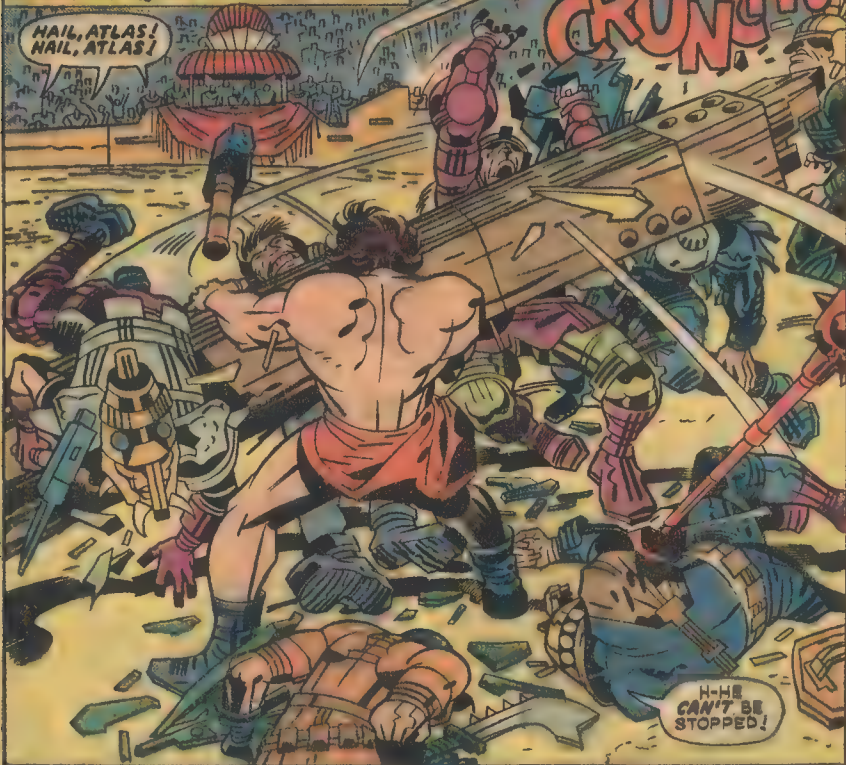




IN THE FIGHTING ARENAS BUILT BY BARBARIC PRINCES, ATLAS GAINED MORE REKNOWN BY DISPATCHING SQUADS OF TRAINED KILLERS.

HAIL, ATLAS!
HAIL, ATLAS!

CRUNCH!



VICTORY FOLLOWED
VICTORY...ATLAS WON
TROPHIES AND GIFTS.

HAIL!
HAIL!

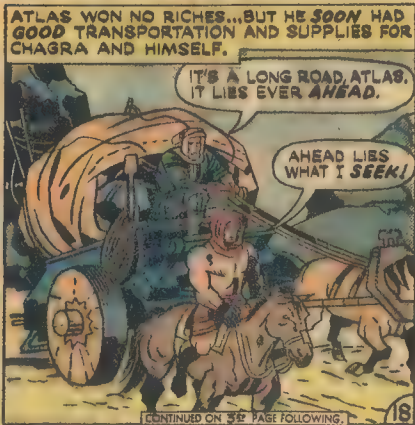
THE GOLDEN
"HELMET OF
CHAMPIONS"
IS YOURS,
ATLAS!



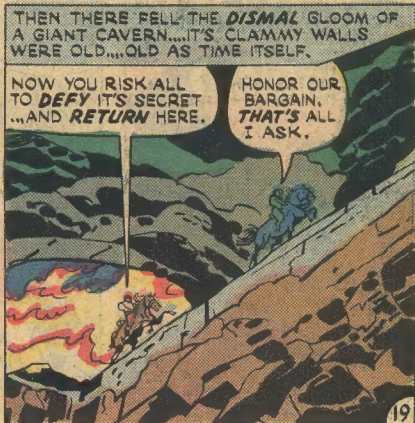
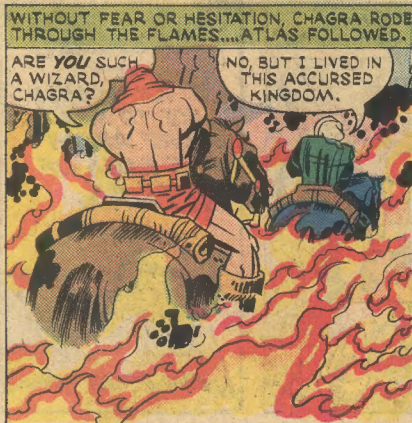
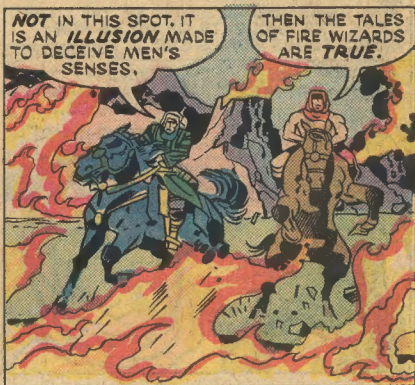
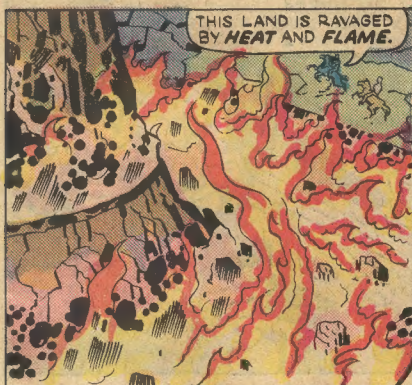
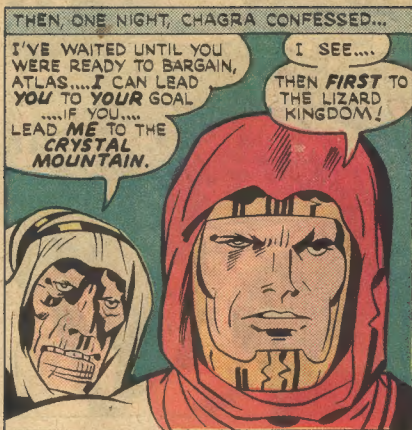
ATLAS WON NO RICHES...BUT HE SOON HAD
GOOD TRANSPORTATION AND SUPPLIES FOR
CHAGRA AND HIMSELF.

IT'S A LONG ROAD, ATLAS.
IT LIES EVER AHEAD.

AHEAD LIES
WHAT I SEEK!



(CONTINUED ON 32 PAGE FOLLOWING.)



THERE WERE *STRANGE* ECHOES IN THIS
HOARY DOMAIN....SOUNDS OF THINGS
LONG THOUGHT TO HAVE VANISHED....

HHRSSS!!

WHAT WAS
THAT?

RIDE ON,
ATLAS.

THE REMEMBERED SOUND OF THE LIZARD
JOLTS THE THOUGHTS OF ATLAS FOR-
WORD TO HIS GOAL'S END....

HOLD,
KNAVE!

I'VE FOUND IT! THE
FACE THAT'S HAUNTED
ME...THE VOICE...

I AM *HYSSA*....WHAT MANNER
OF FOOL DARES TO MISTREAT
ONE WHOM I FAVOR !!?

HYSSA LOOKS DEEP INTO THE
EYES OF ATLAS...AND GROWS
UNEASY....

HAVE WE NOT
MET BEFORE?

SPEAK!

WHO ARE
YOU !!?

**YOUR
CONQUEROR!**

**THUS, A GREAT
SAGA BEGINS!!**

**IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO READ
MORE ABOUT
THE SAGA OF
ATLAS,**

WRITE:

THE STORY BEHIND
THE STORY N.R.P.,
75 ROCKEFELLER
PLAZA, N.Y., N.Y. 10019

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

L-438

Legend has it that Atlas was the first king of Atlantis, and the leader of the Titans that Zeus overthrew. For his role in championing the Titan cause, he was condemned to carry the heavens on his shoulders.

Yet what is a legend? The dictionary defines legend as "a story coming down from the past; especially one popularly accepted as historical though not verifiable." But modern interpretation has given the word legend the quality of something larger than life... more dramatic, more powerful, more unique.

And that's appropriate for our new version of Atlas. Certainly our hero is larger than life, laden with qualities beyond the reach of ordinary mortals. The only part of the description that doesn't work is the "coming down from the past" section, but that's easily enough explained.

This is an era of instant legend. Electronic media and mass market magazines publicize any extraordinary feat so rapidly that new heroes, new legends, are born every day. No sooner has the world's record for anything been broken than the media use their influence to announce the birth of a new star.

And so the value of age wanes. A story is no longer a classic because it has been handed down from generation to generation. Our classics are now—the tales aimed at our decade, our year, our instant.

Which brings us to **Atlas #1**.

If there's been one theme running through the comics career of Jack Kirby, it's been legend. And that applies on two levels: the first being the new characters who he's raised to the quality of legend, and the second the numerous experiments with magazines devoted to modern versions of the legends of the past. Whether it's Greek, Roman, Norse, or entirely new gods, alien races with a stature approaching godhood have always entered into the Kirby scheme of things.

Nowadays it's very popular to hypothesize about the possibility of an alien race landing on earth and giving unintentional birth to the concept of pantheons of gods. But Jack Kirby envisioned such



events years earlier.

In that sense, Atlas is but the latest in a long series of visions of the past/present/future/unknown. It possess the qualities that made the earlier Kirby creations so popular, and draws upon the concept of legend again. But more importantly, it is an entirely new speculation—a new addition to the Kirby mythos.

How it develops, whether it gains the vast popularity of some of the other Kirby myths, only time will tell. It's up to you, the readers, to tell us whether you want this magazine to continue. Even an incredibly fast artist like Jack Kirby can only do a certain number of magazines at once, and if you want this to be one of them—let us know. Our address is: ATLAS, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

See you in the land of myth!



DC **1st** ISSUE SPECIAL 25th

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